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involved. The same is true of mental examinations of juvenile delinquents and criminals whose whole careers depend, in many cases, upon the determination of their condition.

"We desire to make the following specific recommendations:

"1. We recommend that the New York Psychiatric Society affirm the general principle that the sick, whether in mind or body, should be cared for only by those with medical training who are authorized by the state to assume the responsibility of diagnosis and treatment.

"2. We recommend that the Society express its disapproval and urge upon thoughtful psychologists and the medical profession in general an expression of disapproval of the application of psychology to responsible clinical work except when made by or under the direct supervision of physicians qualified to deal with abnormal mental conditions.

"3. We recommend that the Society disapprove of psychologists (or of those who claim to be psychologists as a result of their ability to apply any set of psychological tests) undertaking to pass judgment upon the mental condition of sick, defective or otherwise abnormal persons when such findings involve questions of diagnosis, or affect the future care and career of such persons.

"CHARLES L. DANA, Chairman,
"ADOLF MEYER,
"THOMAS W. SALMON."

Logical Analysis of Subscribed Signatures.—Every signature, which is subscribed, must be either of the true name, or not of the true name of the writer.

If the signature is of the true name of the writer it must have been written either with, or not with the intent to thereby identify the writer.

If the signature is of the true name, written with the intent to identify the writer, it will have no conscious or voluntary variation from the usual and customary manner or style of signature, automatically natural to the writer under the conditions under which the signature is written. To make it otherwise would be but to surely defeat the very intent of the signer.

If the signature is that of the true name, but is not written with the intent that it shall identify the writer, it may be written in one of the three following ways: Firstly, if there be simply an absence of any active intent that it shall identify the writer, the signature will be automatically written in the usual and customary style natural under the circumstances under which the writing is made. Secondly, if there be but a moderately active intent that the signature shall not identify the writer, he will seek to modify his conscious habits, which he recognizes as affecting the general pictorial appearances of his signature, in so far as he can control them, and deems it necessary to accomplish his object. Thirdly, if there is a strong, positive intent that the written signature shall not identify the writer, he will, to the best of his ability and understanding, not only endeavor to write the signature so dissimilar to that of his own usual and customary automatic hand, that it shall not only be not taken to be his signature, but will even, from its marked similarity to the usual style of signature of another particular person, be taken to have been written by that person.

If the signature is however not that of the true name of the writer, it

must have been written either without, or with the intent to appear to identify itself with some other particular person than the writer.

If the signature is not that of the true name of the writer and has not been written with the intent to be made to appear to be the true signature of some other particular person, the writer will usually deem it to be quite unnecessary to attempt to conceal his own conscious automatic habits, as he must do when he seeks to disguise his own true name signature. He very naturally deems the altered name will be of itself, a sufficiently good disguise for his self-concealment.

If the signature is not that of the true name of the writer, and has been written with the intent that it shall appear to be the true name signature of some other particular person, then there are involved in this endeavor all the cumulative difficulties, not only of the concealment of all of the conscious and unconscious automatic habits of the true writer, but of the assumption of those of the same classes of habits which exist in the genuine signatures of the person simulated. This is a task well-nigh never quite wholly possible of successful accomplishment when subjected to the careful analytical examination of an experienced expert, who has been provided with the proper amount of standard writings whereby to determine the various writing habits of the purported signer.

A competent expert learns through experience to know what variations of any writer's conscious voluntary, or automatic unconscious habits he may reasonably expect to meet with under any one of the above mentioned possible varying conditions of signature writing. What are the habits exhibited by any writer may be learned only through a careful analytical examination of a number of authentic genuine samples, sufficiently large and varied to furnish examples of them all, and to establish the fact that they are truly habits, as distinct from merely accidental occurrences. Any writing consciously made for the purpose of comparison is of but inferior value, except to refute some claim of the writer. The only standards of full value are such as were not made at all for that special purpose, but were made under as similar conditions as possible as to time, manner and purpose as is presumed to have been that of the questioned writing.

As the proper and legitimate purpose of a signature subscribed to a document is to authenticate it, and to identify the writer, it is not to be expected that any one other than a person signing his own true name will willfully venture to materially alter the usual and customary general pictorial appearance of that signature, for that one alone would be competent to successfully establish the fact that the signature was indeed genuine. For any one else to thus willfully raise the doubt would be but to surely defeat the very purpose of making the signature.

A well grounded valid opinion of the genuineness of any questioned signature may be based upon the following axioms. Every one who has practiced writing long enough to do so automatically, having the mind intent upon the subject matter, and not at all upon the writing itself, has inevitably acquired certain writing habits. Many of these will be common to other writers. A few will be uncommon, and perchance some special habit may even be peculiar to the individual alone. Many of the habits being voluntary and conscious ones, are subject to more or less immediate control of the will. There will how-

ever, be many other habits, which do not materially affect the general pictorial appearance of the writing, and are quite involuntary and unconscious. They cannot therefore be modified immediately at will. They can be changed only gradually, through the formation of new habits which displace the former ones.

No two samples of genuine free-hand writing are ever exactly facsimile of each other in all respects. They may appear as much alike on casual inspection, as any two peas grown in the same pod, but, like the peas, they can always be differentiated from each other on careful examination. The relative value of points of similarity or dissimilarity differ very greatly. All writing in order to be readable, must conform in many respects to the commonly accepted conventional type.

If in a questioned writing there is a persistent reappearance of very many of the habits of the standards, especially if they are of the involuntary automatic variety, which do not materially affect the general pictorial appearance, or is a singular habit of this standard, if such there be, and if also these are supplemented by a like persistent absence of other habits, very common to writers in general, or which are incongruous with those of the standards, then the culminative evidence of such a series of coincidences will fully warrant the opinion that they, taken together, cannot be due to any accidental chance, but, beyond any reasonable doubt, must be due only to the one cause of having had the same origin, that is of having been written by one and the same hand.

DR. BENNETT F. DAVENPORT, *Medico-legal Expert, Boston, Mass.*

Study of Delinquent Boys Released from Institutions.—The Seattle Juvenile Court Report for the year 1916 contains a study of the after-career of 408 delinquent boys who were committed from the King County Juvenile Court to the Boys' Parental School and the State Training School during the five-year period 1911-1915. The study was made under the direction of Professor Walter G. Beach, Professor of Sociology at the University of Washington. The following table and paragraphs are quoted from the report:

"Passing immediately to the statistical facts we find that 408 boys were committed by the King County Juvenile Court during the five-year period from January 1, 1911, to December 31, 1915, to correctional schools, as follows: Three hundred forty-six, or 84.8 per cent, were sent to the Parental School and sixty-two, or 15.2 per cent, to the State Training School.

"The present whereabouts and occupations of these boys will be noted first without reference to the segregation by institutions.

144, or 35.3%, are now at work.

56, or 13.7%, are now attending public school.

67, or 16.5%, are known to have moved to other towns, states or counties.

64, or 15.7%, have escaped from schools, or disappeared following parole, and there is no official knowledge of their whereabouts.

19, or 04.7%, are known to be at liberty and in frequent trouble.

11, or 02.7%, are free and simply loafing.

4, or 00.9%, are in the army or navy.

4, or 00.9%, are dead.